

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace drawing sheets 1 of 6, 2 of 6 and 3 of 6 with the corresponding replacement drawing sheets attached to this amendment. The drawing amendments are intended to clarify the location of the penetration end. The indicated changes to the drawings have been approved by the Examiner and agreed upon by Applicants. A CD-ROM containing a PDF file of the replacement sheets is also enclosed for convenience.

REMARKS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

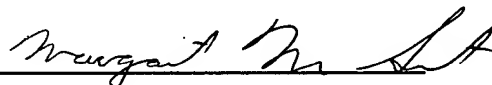
The Applicants object to the Examiner's reasons for allowance, to the extent, if any, that the Examiner's reasons for allowance may be interpreted as introducing limitations not recited in the claims. Any Examiner's comments regarding criticality of any particular component of the claimed invention or characterization of the cited references reflect merely the view of the Examiner and should not be interpreted as narrowing the scope of the claim. The scope of the present invention should be determined with reference to the paramount rule of claim construction that claims are given their plain meaning, in the broadest manner possible along with their full scope of equivalents (unless otherwise specified by definitions provided by the Applicant).

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner believes there are any remaining issues to be resolved, he is encouraged to phone Joshua D. Isenberg (Reg. No. 41,088) at (510) 668-0965.

Respectfully submitted,

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